

Jeff Currier *global fly fishing*

November 11, 2009

The New Life

Hey everyone!



It was less than three weeks ago that I finished up a great 23 year run at the JD fly shop. Since that day I've spoke in CA, fished in CA, Mexico and two days on the South Fork since I've been home. I'm liking this!

On my first stop I did a "Trout Bum" presentation for the Long Beach Casting Club in Southern CA. As always I met a lot of great people, one of them an old friend, Rich Garrett, who generously took time from work to take me fishing. Rich hooked us up with his friend, Mike Allen, a pro for Hobie Cat, and we sea kayaked outside Newport Beach.

Kayaks provide a great way to fly fish and within five minutes I was sold on this set up. We had the option of paddling and pedaling for moving. Pedaling freed my hands and I cast to fish with ease. It was a gorgeous 85

degree day with no wind. I quickly found myself two miles out to sea rolling in huge Pacific waves stalking a school of bonito. I'd of chased bonito all day but it occurred to me that a kayak could resemble a seal to a big shark! I've hooked some big blue and mako sharks on flies in these waters before and it's also home to great whites, so as fast as my legs could pedal I hauled back to the kelp beds near shore. There I met up with Rich and Mike and we landed a handful of handsome little calico bass and mackerel. A fantastic day!



The next morning I flew to Baja Mexico to meet up with friend Sam Vigneri. Sammy coincidentally started at the JD fly shop the day before me back in 1987. He was in college at the time and came back to work three summers. In those days we did a ton of fishing together, but the older we get the less time we fish together. So when Sam invited me to try to catch a striped marlin on fly rod with him and guide Grant Hartman, another old friend, I didn't think twice!

On the afternoon of November 1st Sammy and I were drinking Pacifico's and counting fish flags on the incoming boats in Cabo San Lucas Harbor. Unfortunately, the marlin flags were few and far between. We met Grant

early the next morning and he was quick to warn us that we could be wasting time hunting marlin. Apparently, hurricane Rick had moved the marlin out to sea and few had been seen lately. Grants advice was to target dorado (dolphin fish).

Over the next three days, we landed only a handful of dorado on the fly and had one non-aggressive striped marlin to cast a fly to. The sea was nearly silent for reasons unknown. But, that's fishing and you see a few bad days along with the many good. Sammy, Grant



and I certainly know this and we had a fantastic time together catching up as old friends do. Oh, not to say we didn't see a few cool things. Just ask me about the sleeping humpback whale we startled ten feet in front of the boat while trolling the teasers!

Sammy flew home on the 7th and I stayed to fish the beaches. Grant arranged for his brother-in-law Iban to take me to one of his secret haunts for Roosterfish. Early Friday morning Iban and I drove up the East Cape. It was a spectacular day to undertake the waves with a fly. Winds were calm and the surf was easily manageable even without a stripping basket. I could effortlessly launch my popper 90ft into the gentle swells. But somehow, fishing still stunk! However, six hours into my day, like a switch went on the fish started to show up. From 4pm till dark I got the fly line ripped out of my hands nearly every cast! During the frenzy I landed two roosterfish, numerous Pacific Jack Crevalle and lookdown fish, a pargo, a green jack and a houndfish. Now we're talkin!

I traveled home on Sunday and Monday put on the waders to join the gang for our annual "end of the season" JD party on the South Fork. Unfortunately few showed this year but the eight of us that did attend had a blast as we always do. Fishing wasn't spectacular by any means, but tying the boats together and drinking beers while swapping stories does cut into the casting time. It was a great day and so much fun that yesterday I went back with a couple other friends and fished again!



So far the new life has been incredible. Fishing like a madman has been great and spending time with friends even better. But now it's time to buckle down and begin the new career. I'm pleased to tell you things are going well so far. I have received several orders for

fish and a few of you want your pets done. Be sure and get those photos to me soon. I have also joined the "Fly Fishing Show" as a guest speaker and will be back East in January and return to CA in February. I'm still looking for two more to join me in the Amazon in March. You want to make this if you can as we have a really fun group. And for the really adventurous, expect dates for trip to Egypt for Nile Perch soon.

(continued)

As always, you can follow my schedule and any exciting news on my website:

<http://www.jeffcurrier.com>

I have also started a blog:

<http://flyfishingbum.blogspot.com/>

Here you will be able to follow my daily fishing and progress with the new career.

I really appreciate all the support and hope to see you all soon!

Jeff